

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as-follows:

The present disclosure relates to [[A]]an apparatus [[is]] for purifying exhaust gases, and includes comprising an HC absorption-purifying catalyst and a three-way catalyst. The HC absorption-purifying catalyst ~~includes~~ comprises an HC absorbent, and an oxidizing catalyst. The three-way catalyst is ~~disposed~~ located on an upstream side of the flow of exhaust gases with respect to the HC absorption-purifying catalyst[[,]] wherein a noble metal is loaded higher on a high loading portion ~~disposed~~ located on an upstream part of the three-way catalyst than on an ordinary part of the three-way catalyst. ~~The apparatus shows the actions of the three-way catalyst and the actions of the HC absorption-purifying catalyst synergistically, and accordingly can remarkably inhibit the HC emission even in low temperature regions such as when engines are started.~~